

Report on the meeting of the "Association of Consecrated Life in Ukraine" on 4 May 2018 in the "Café-project"¹ of the same Association in Lviv/Ukraine

Translator for Sr. Marjolein: Sr. Valentyna

Today is a historic day: 4 Ukrainian Conferences (of which 2: CORU [Roman-Catholic nuns] and UGCC [Greek-Catholic nuns] are members of UCESM) join in an Association, presenting their "Declaration of cooperation".

They chose to write a "declaration" rather than a "statute" or a "regulation": a "declaration" gives greater independence from bishops, because it does not have to be approved by them.



The goal of the Declaration: to show that the religious are open to collaborate. There has been some hard work on this declaration and after several amendments it is consolidated by those present.

It was decided not to elect a president (there are already three!) but a general secretary and a vice general secretary instead. Unanimously, are elected as secretary general: Father Roman Lagish, and as vice secretary general: sr. Anna Zainchkovska.

A job description will be drafted for them.

This Declaration has had a trial period of 6 months.

At the beginning of the meeting Sr. Marjolein, as general secretary of UCESM, explains - using the website – what UCESM is and wants.

Sr. Anna presents the minutes of the last two meetings, which are corrected ad hoc, followed by a short visit in the spaces of the building.



In the next step the projects for the current year are presented:

- on 25-28 September 2018 will be the project – the Symposium "The consecrated life in the era of digital culture", for 200 persons of consecrated life of both rites
- a week of formation for superiors
- a few days of formation for community treasurers
- a psychological help centre for religious who will be in the "café project"
- a major event for young religious of both rites in a big stadium.

And for the next 3 years they proposed:

- to create a building for different activities, with rooms for students
- a market with religious items
- a language course **{for this, the help of UCESM is being asked for}**

¹ This café was built in a former monastery of the Redemptorists; part of that project, which only exists since almost one year, belongs to the Association: some offices and consulting rooms, p.es. for specialists working with religious with burn-out, addicts e.g. from drugs etc.

Several issues are mentioned

- going together: how to commemorate/celebrate the holidays that fall on different dates (Christmas, Easter, but also some Saints have a different accent in different cultures)
- how can we ensure (e.g. financially) our future?

In two weeks they will meet again (online), to exchange on specialists (some of them already work for religious) and experiences with them.



From left to right – standing:

- Sr. Anna Zainchkovska fma, Councillor and Secretary of CORU
- Fr. Justin Mischenko osppe, Secretary of the Roman-Catholic Conference
- Sr. Natalia Melnyk zspr, President of UGCC
- Bishop Edward Kava ofm, President of the Roman-Catholic Commission for Consecrated Life
- Fr. Roman Lagish cssr, Secretary of the Greek-Catholic Council
- Sr. Marjolein Bruinen op, Secretary General of UCESM
- Sr. Valentyna Ryabushko smsv, Vice-President of the Patriarchal Commission for Religious (Greek-Catholic)
- Fr. Stanislav Kava ofm, Counselor of the Roman-Catholic Conference

From left to right – sitting:

- Sr. Elena Bys csa, President of CORU
- Fr. Blazey Sousa ofm cap, President of the Roman-Catholic Conference
- Fr. Andrew Rak cssr, President of the Greek-Catholic Council